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LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 12 December 1997 (S/1997/994), I informed the Council of my decision that Mr. Berhanu Dinka should serve as my Representative and Regional Humanitarian Adviser for the Great Lakes Region. The Security Council concurred with my decision (S/1997/995).

In his capacity as my Representative, Mr. Dinka has represented me in meetings held in the region, monitored developments and their implications for peace and regional security, and sought to contribute to regional efforts in the prevention or peaceful settlement of conflicts with specific emphasis on Burundi.

With respect to Burundi, the designation of former President Nelson Mandela as the new facilitator is expected to reinvigorate the peace process. In view of this, it is desirable to raise the profile of the United Nations within the overall efforts of the international community to address the current deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Burundi.

I have, accordingly, decided to appoint Mr. Dinka as my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, at the assistant secretary-general level. In this capacity, he will, inter alia, sound out the views of countries in the region regarding the proposed organization of an international conference on the Great Lakes; represent me at meetings and deliberations under the Arusha peace process on Burundi; and address the regional dimensions of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through, among other steps, close interaction with my Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is my intention to extend his mandate, as revised, until the end of December 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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